



Planning Reform Reference Panel Communiqué – July 2008

Planning for a prosperous Queensland

This communiqué provides a summary of key topics discussed at panel meetings and updates on related reform initiatives.

The communiqué is issued to panel members after each meeting and is emailed to those subscribed to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) IPA email update service (to subscribe visit www.dip.qld.gov.au/news-media-and-events/e-news). It is also available on the planning reform homepage www.dip.qld.gov.au/planning-reform/index.

The Planning Reform Reference Panel is working with DIP to ensure changes deliver true reform (legislative, operational and cultural) and ensure Queensland has an effective planning and development system that matches contemporary needs. The reference panel has been asked to provide advice about specific implementation of published policy actions that will lead to new legislation by the end of 2008.

The Planning Reform Reference Panel is Chaired by the Director General, Colin Jensen, and the panel met on Friday 4 July 2008; the following comments outline what was discussed.

Links between SEQ State of the Region report and SEQ Regional Plan review

The South East Queensland (SEQ) State of the Region report 2008 is a whole-of-government document, collated by DIP and the Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the Council of Mayors (SEQ), 15 state agencies, and non-government organisations.

Following its release later this year, the report will be considered as part of the SEQ Regional Plan Review and provide input into the draft SEQ Regional Plan 2009–31.

Guidelines on social infrastructure planning

Implementation guideline No 5—Social Infrastructure Planning was published as supporting information for the SEQ Regional Plan 2005–26. The guideline provides a framework for social planning and is receiving widespread support and accolades, including winning a National Planning Institute of Australia Award in 2007. This document is available on the department's website at www.dip.qld.gov.au/guidelines

While the guideline was developed for South East Queensland, it has a wider application. It was also utilised for the preparation of the Far North Queensland 2025 Regional Plan, which is currently available for public comment.



A shared responsibility for all stakeholders to deliver planning reform

Planning reform is not solely about legislation, it is about having everyone contributing to implement operational and cultural change. The three aspects—legislation, cultural change and operational change—play equal roles in the planning reform agenda.

Legislation makes up one-third of the planning reform agenda. Consultation on reform identified systemic operational and cultural issues that were over-complicating the planning process and causing unnecessary delays and inefficiencies. The intent of reform is to focus on planning outcomes, rather than process, and eliminate processes that do not add value to achieving a better planning outcome. All stakeholders have a role and a responsibility to deliver reform.

Capacity building and training are key components of reform which will help all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities within the new legislative framework. This phase of reform implementation has commenced in anticipation of new planning legislation by the end of 2008.

Progress on advice on transitional issues from the 'old' IPA to the new planning legislation.

A number of local governments are seeking direction on the timing of transitional arrangements for planning schemes, due to:

- amalgamations in March 2008 generating the need to develop a new planning scheme for the amalgamated council
- new planning legislation due to be in place by end 2008, which will include standard planning scheme provisions
- the requirement in IPA requiring local governments to review their planning schemes after eight years (about eight councils are already in this review category).

The Planning Reform Implementation Team is working to prepare guidelines to assist councils. It is expected that existing stakeholder groups will be utilised to develop options that meet the needs of all councils across Queensland

Updates on key reform related projects

- [Statutory Regional Planning](#):
 - The draft Far North Queensland 2025 Regional Plan, State Planning Regulatory Provisions (Regional Plans) and associated mapping of the regional land use categories is currently in the public consultation phase. The final plan is due for release in December 2008.
 - The Central West, South West, and Maranoa and Districts regional plans are anticipated to be released for public consultation in August 2008. Final plans are expected to be released in December 2008.
- [RiskSmart](#):
 - One council is in the final stage (stage 5) of implementation, two councils are in stage four and three councils are in stage three. Three other councils are set to adopt the RiskSmart business approach in September 2008. All nine councils have responded positively to the RiskSmart process.
- Capacity Building and Training:
 - Several key tasks have been completed, with new emerging tasks progressing well.



- It was noted that DIP is taking a collaborative approach to work with key stakeholder groups to maximise existing training efforts.
- Building and Development Tribunal expansion:
 - Progress is being made to expand the jurisdiction of the Building and Development Tribunals, as outlined in the reform actions.
 - Discussion was held on the need for clearer explanation of the types of issues that should be addressed by the expanded range dispute resolution mechanisms. The expanded system will include alternate dispute resolution (already in place since April 2007), the expansion of the Building and Development Tribunal, and the continuation of the Planning and Environment Court. DIP is seeking feedback from panel members of the range of issues that each jurisdiction should focus on.

What's next?

The next panel meeting is scheduled for 21 August 2008, after which the next communiqué will be made available.